

Remarks

The Office Action mailed July 26, 2005 has been carefully reviewed and the following remarks have been made in consequence thereof.

Claims 1-4 and 6-20 are now pending in this application. Claims 1-3 and 6-20 are rejected. Claim 5 has been canceled without prejudice, waiver, or disclaimer. Claim 4 is allowed. Claims 1, 7, and 19 have been amended. No new matter has been added.

The rejection of Claims 1-3 and 6-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Welches et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication 2002/0036430 A1) in view of Blackett et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,751,562) is respectfully traversed.

Welches et al. describe a method in which a circuit breaker manager (CBM) observes current and detects overload (paragraph 83). The CBM then shuts down any affected branch using a plurality of solid state branch circuit breakers (650) (paragraph 83). After the CBM receives an over load notice from a power conditioning unit (PCU), the CBM begins a programmed shutdown of overloaded or non-essential branches in an effort to shed a plurality of loads (paragraph 83).

Blackett et al. describe a plurality of power management applications that include automated meter reading applications, load shedding applications, deregulated supplier management applications, on-site power generation management applications, power quality management applications, protection/safety applications, and general distribution system management applications, such as equipment inventory and maintenance applications (column 5, lines 20-27). A power management application typically includes one or more application components which utilize a power management architecture to interoperate and communicate thereby implementing the power management application (column 5, lines 27-31).

Claim 1 recites a method for supplying power, the method comprising “supplying power to at least one critical device; supplying power to at least one essential device; remotely removing power to the at least one essential device while maintaining power to the at least one critical device, wherein said remotely removing

power comprises remotely discontinuing power on receiving an instruction via the Ethernet to remotely remove power; storing power supplied by at least one of a generator and a utility power source in an energy storage system when a supply of power to the at least one essential device is discontinued; and resuming supply of power to the at least one essential device upon determining that power supplied by the generator and an uninterrupted power supply is returned to a level.”

Neither Welches et al. nor Blackett et al., considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest a method for supplying power as recited in Claim 1. Specifically, neither Welches et al. nor Blackett et al., considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest resuming supply of power to the at least one essential device upon determining that power supplied by the generator and an uninterrupted power supply is returned to a level. Rather, Welches et al. describe observing current and detecting overload by a circuit breaker manager. Welches et al. further describe shutting down, by the circuit breaker manager, any affected branch using a plurality of solid state branch circuit breakers. Welches et al. also describe beginning a programmed shutdown of non-essential branches in an effort to shed a plurality of loads after the circuit breaker manager receives an over load notice from a power conditioning unit. Blackett et al. describe a load shedding application. Accordingly, neither Welches et al. nor Blackett et al., considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest resuming supply of power to the at least one essential device upon determining that power supplied by the generator and an uninterrupted power supply is returned as recited in Claim 1. For the reasons set forth above, Claim 1 is submitted to be patentable over Welches et al. in view of Blackett et al.

Claims 2, 3, and 6 depend, directly or indirectly, from independent Claim 1. When the recitations of Claims 2, 3, and 6 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 1, Applicant submits that Claims 2, 3, and 6 likewise is patentable over Welches et al. in view of Blackett et al.

Claim 7 recites an energy management system comprising “a generation module including at least one of a utility power source and a generating power source; a first set of at least one power distribution unit remote from said generation module and communicatively coupled to said generation module, wherein at least one of said

at least one power distribution unit in the first set is connected to at least one essential device; a master control system remote from said generation module and said at least one power distribution unit in the first set, said master control system communicatively coupled to said generation module and said at least one power distribution unit in the first set; an energy storage system configured to store power supplied by at least one of said utility power source and said generating power source when said at least one power distribution unit in the first set discontinues supplying power to the at least one essential device; and a programmable logic controller configured to direct said at least one power distribution unit in the first set to resume supply of power to the at least one essential device upon determining that power supplied by said generation module is returned to a level.”

Neither Welches et al. nor Blackett et al., considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest an energy management system as recited in Claim 7. Specifically, neither Welches et al. nor Blackett et al., considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest a programmable logic controller configured to direct the at least one power distribution unit in the first set to resume supply of power to the at least one essential device upon determining that power supplied by the generation module is returned to a level. Rather, Welches et al. describe observing current and detecting overload by a circuit breaker manager. Welches et al. further describe shutting down, by the circuit breaker manager, any affected branch using a plurality of solid state branch circuit breakers. Welches et al. also describe beginning a programmed shutdown of non-essential branches in an effort to shed a plurality of loads after the circuit breaker manager receives an over load notice from a power conditioning unit. Blackett et al. describe a load shedding application. Accordingly, neither Welches et al. nor Blackett et al., considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest a programmable logic controller configured to direct the at least one power distribution to resume supply of power to the at least one essential device upon determining that power supplied by the generation module is returned as recited in Claim 7. For the reasons set forth above, Claim 7 is submitted to be patentable over Welches et al. in view of Blackett et al.

Claims 8-18 depend, directly or indirectly, from independent Claim 7. When the recitations of Claims 8-18 are considered in combination with the recitations of

Claim 7, Applicant submits that Claims 8-18 likewise are patentable over Welches et al. in view of Blackett et al.

Claim 19 recites an energy management system comprising “a generation module comprising at least two power sources comprising a generator and a utility power source; at least two power distribution units remote from said generation module and communicatively coupled to said generation module, at least one of said power distribution units connected to at least one critical device, remaining of said power distribution units connected to at least one essential device; a master control system remote from said generation module and said power distribution units, said master control system communicatively coupled to said generation module and said power distribution units, said master control system configured to remotely monitor said generation module and instruct the remaining of said power distribution units connected to the at least one essential device to stop supplying power to the at least one essential device; an energy storage system configured to store power supplied by at least one of said generator and said utility power source when the remaining of said power distribution units connected to the at least one essential device is not supplying power to the at least one essential device; and a programmable logic controller configured to direct at least one of the remaining of said power distribution units to resume supply of power to the at least one essential device upon determining that power supplied by said generating module is returned to a level.”

Neither Welches et al. nor Blackett et al., considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest an energy management system as recited in Claim 19. Specifically, neither Welches et al. nor Blackett et al., considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest a programmable logic controller configured to direct at least one of the remaining of the power distribution units to resume supply of power to the at least one essential device upon determining that power supplied by the generating module is returned to a level. Rather, Welches et al. describe observing current and detecting overload by a circuit breaker manager. Welches et al. further describe shutting down, by the circuit breaker manager, any affected branch using a plurality of solid state branch circuit breakers. Welches et al. also describe beginning a programmed shutdown of non-essential branches in an effort to shed a plurality of loads after the circuit breaker manager receives an over load notice from a power

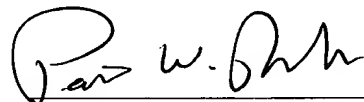
conditioning unit. Blackett et al. describe a load shedding application. Accordingly, neither Welches et al. nor Blackett et al., considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest a programmable logic controller configured to direct at least one of the remaining of the power distribution units to resume supply of power to the at least one essential device upon determining that power supplied by the generating module is returned as recited in Claim 19. For the reasons set forth above, Claim 19 is submitted to be patentable over Welches et al. in view of Blackett et al.

Claim 20 depends from independent Claim 19. When the recitations of Claim 20 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 19, Applicant submits that Claim 20 likewise is patentable over Welches et al. in view of Blackett et al.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully requests that the Section 103 rejection of Claims 1-3 and 6-20 be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, all the claims now active in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,



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